

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****APR 27 2006****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE****Certificate of Transmission**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273 - 8300 on April 27, 2006.

Total pages in this transmission: 4


Gudrun E. Hockett, Patent Agent

Applicant: Klaus Fröhlich
Serial No: 10/709,513
Filed: 5/11/2004
Title: Device for Connecting Ends of Bars
Examiner: Joshua T. Kennedy
Art Unit: 3679

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 1/30/2006

In response to the office action dated 1/30/2006, applicant submits the following:

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 12 are pending in the application; claim 13 has been canceled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-5, 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Holdsworth* (US 5,909,980) and *Michelson* (US 6,139,550). Claim 6 stands rejected in view of *Holdsworth* and *Michelson* (US and further in view of *Ecklesdafer* (US 5,145,652. Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Holdsworth* (US 5,909,980) and *Michelson* (US 6,139,550) and *Mochizuki* (US 5,974,761).

Holdsworth discloses a tubular coupler for reinforcing bars that comprises an

- 1 -

4/27/06: Amd for Ser. No. 10/709,513 - Inventor(s): Fröhlich - Filing Date: 5/11/2004